

Assessment Update

Revised July 2012

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The PSSA is Going Online!

All subjects and grades of the Spring 2013 PSSA will be available as an online administration via DRC's INSIGHT test engine.

The PSSA will also continue to be offered as paper/pencil assessments.

LEAs will have the opportunity to select the assessment mode during the October enrollment window. LEAs will have the

flexibility to choose online or paper/pencil at the classroom, school, or district level.

During the enrollment window, LEAs will need to identify the number of online assessments that will be administered at each grade within a given school.

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Key Dates

PSSA	
2012 Grade 12 Retest	October 22–November 2, 2012
2013 Writing Field Test (Grades 3, 4, & 5)	February 4–15, 2013
2013 Writing Assessment (Grades 5 & 8)	March 11–15, 2013
2013 Writing Make-Ups	March 18–22, 2013
2013 Reading/Math Assessment (Gr. 3–8)	April 8–19, 2013
2013 Science Assessment (Grades 4 & 8)	April 22–26, 2013
2013 Reading/Math & Science Make-Ups	April 29–May 3, 2013
Keystone	
Enrollment window Sites enter enrollment counts into eDIRECT	September 10–14, 2012
Test Set-Up window Sites enter student information into eDIRECT	October 8–19, 2012
Winter 2012 Algebra I, Biology, Literature	December 3–14, 2012 January 9–23, 2013
Spring 2012 Algebra I, Biology, Literature	May 13–24, 2013
Classroom Diagnostic Tools	
2012–2013 Assessments Available	August 27, 2012–July 31, 2013

PSSA

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Accommodations are available for students using the online test engine.

- Accommodated forms will be available only in paper/pencil.

Elimination of the PSSA-M

PDE has eliminated the PSSA-Modified (PSSA-M) assessments in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education.

- Students who previously qualified for a modified assessment should be administered the standard PSSA in 2013 (or the PASA, if those eligibility requirements are met).
- The experience gained from the PSSA-M will be used to introduce some of the successful item modifications to the standard PSSA.

No Grade 11 PSSA in Spring 2013

The grade 11 assessments for Reading, Math, Science, and Writing have been eliminated.

- The reintroduction of the Keystone Exams will replace the high school assessment requirement previously fulfilled by the grade 11 PSSA.

Materials Ordering/Enrollment System

The PSSA Materials Ordering/Enrollment System will be available October 15–19, 2012, through DRC’s eDIRECT web-based system.

District users will be set up in eDIRECT by DRC prior to the start of the window. During the Materials Ordering/Enrollment System window, district users will need to update contact information. Throughout the year, districts can make changes directly into DRC’s eDIRECT system.

2013 PSSA Writing Field Test

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will participate in a Writing Field Test to be administered February 4–15, 2013.

- The field test is an important part in the transition to an ELA assessment.
- Although no field test data will be returned, participation is instrumental for “testing the items” for future assessment consideration.
- The field test will give students practice in the types of tasks that will comprise the operational ELA assessment that begins in 2014 for grades 3, 4, and 5.

Pennsylvania Common Core

The PSSA will be transitioning to the PA Common Core over the next two years.

- The current Reading and Writing assessments will be transitioned to an ELA assessment aligned to the PA Common Core. The current Mathematics PSSA will be transitioned to align to the PA Common Core.
- There will be Common Core field-test items at grades 3–5 in 2013 and at grades 6–8 in 2014. The first operational ELA and Mathematics assessments aligned to the Common Core will be administered at grades 3–5 in 2014 and at grades 6–8 in 2015.

Keystone Exams

The Keystone Exams will be operational for the 2012–2013 school year for Algebra I, Biology, and Literature. The Keystone Exams will be offered in both online and paper/pencil testing formats. Students in grade 11 are required to complete all three Keystone Exams during the 2012–2013 school year for AYP purposes. The PDE strongly recommends that all grade 11 students complete the Keystone Exams during the winter administration. Students in grades 9 and 10 must complete the Keystone Exams prior to the end of their grade 11 school year. Students who have previously completed a corresponding Keystone course are encouraged to take the Keystone Exam dur-

ing the winter administration. Results for these students will be banked until they reach grade 11.

The winter 2012–2013 testing window is scheduled in two separate waves to accommodate different semester end dates in schools that have block scheduling, as well as the additional students required to test for AYP. The testing window for wave 1 is December 3–14, 2012. The testing window for wave 2 is January 9–23, 2013.

Districts must choose the testing wave for each subject. A district may test all subjects during a single wave or split the subjects between waves, but a single subject cannot be tested during both waves.

All schools in the district will follow the same window for security reasons.

Districts will use DRC’s eDIRECT system during the September 10–14 Enrollment Window to enter enrollment counts for each testing window. Enrollment counts will be entered for test mode, subject, and accommodated material.

Districts will enter individual student information into eDIRECT during the October 8–19 Test Setup Window. If districts utilize the September 4 PIMS file, then student information will be preloaded. Districts will then create test sessions for students and enter their test mode. Students listed as paper testers prior to October 19 will receive Precode Labels.

Classroom Diagnostic Tools

The Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) are a set of online assessments designed to provide diagnostic information in order to guide instruction and intervention.

The CDT is offered in grade 6 through grade 12 and is available for use in schools and classrooms throughout the school year. The assessments that will be

available include: Math, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Science, Biology, Chemistry, Reading/Literature, and Writing/English Composition.

The CDT is based on content covered by the Keystone Exams and the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments and includes an interactive reporting suite.

The CDT reporting system is fully integrated with the Standards Aligned System (SAS), and is a very useful tool to help students prepare for a Keystone Exam.

The CDT will be available beginning August 27, 2012.

DRC eDIRECT to be used for all PA assessments

Beginning this summer, Pennsylvania LEAs will access one source for all information related to all Pennsylvania assessments. DRC's eDIRECT Management System will replace the multiple websites and passwords that were needed to access assessment information.

eDIRECT is a secure, web-based system that seamlessly integrates the following tools and resources:

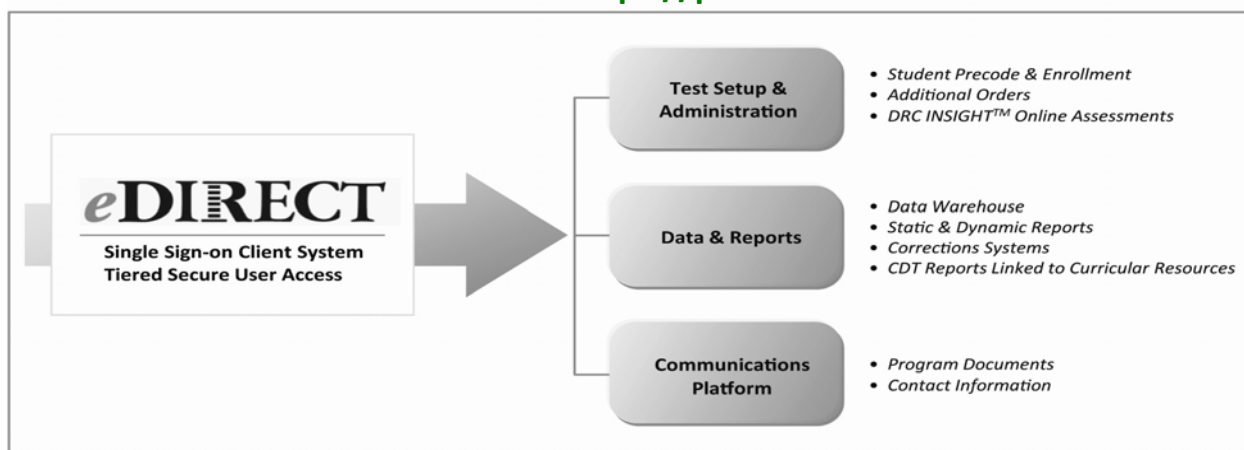
- Student Precode
- Enrollment Verification and Materials Ordering
- DRC INSIGHT Online Testing
 - Online Tools Training
 - Tutorials
 - Software downloads
- Corrections
- Reports

eDIRECT also provides test coordinators and administrators with easy access to non-secure test administration manuals and other ancillary materials.

By logging in with a single user ID through the password-protected eDIRECT system, authorized individuals will be able to access general assessment information, key contacts at DRC and PDE, and all the tools and resources designated for the Pennsylvania testing programs. Users are not required to memorize multiple passwords or log out and log back in to access different areas. The goal is to make access to information as easy as possible.

Starting in September, PSSA will begin using eDIRECT. Please see the PSSA section on the previous page for more details. eDIRECT is already in use for the CDT and the Keystone Exams.

eDIRECT website: <https://pa.drctedirect.com>

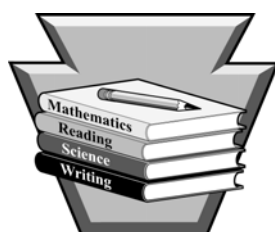


CDT/Keystone/PSSA Training Schedule 2012–2013

Date	Assessment	Training	Purpose	Audience	Presentation
Aug. 15–16	CDT Winter Keystone	Technology	Provide software installation and setup instructions	Technology Coordinator	WebEx and WebEx recordings
Sept. 6–7	Winter Keystone	Enrollment (online and paper) User Administration	Review enrollment system and setting up users in eDIRECT	District Test Coordinator School Test Coordinator	WebEx and WebEx recordings
Oct. 2–4	Winter Keystone	Test Setup	Review test setup system for Precode Labels and online test tickets in eDIRECT	District Test Coordinator School Test Coordinator	WebEx and WebEx recordings
Oct. 10–11	PSSA Spring Keystone	Enrollment User Administration	Review enrollment system and setting up users in eDIRECT	District Test Coordinator School Test Coordinator	WebEx and WebEx recordings
Nov. 5–8	Winter Keystone	Test Administration	Discuss test setup tasks, online/paper testing procedures	District Test Coordinator School Test Coordinator	PaTTAN
Jan. 30–31	PSSA, CDT Spring Keystone	Technology	Provide software installation and setup instructions	Technology Coordinator	WebEx and WebEx recordings
Feb. 11–15	PSSA	Test Administration	Discuss new processes/procedures and reinforce existing protocol	District Test Coordinator School Test Coordinator	PaTTAN
April 9–11	Spring Keystone	Test Administration	Discuss test administration processes/procedures	District Test Coordinator School Test Coordinator	PaTTAN

All training materials will be posted to eDIRECT.

Each training session will be offered multiple times – participants only need to attend **ONE** session based on their role.



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